

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

June 1 – June 7, 2014 [Issue 4]

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Photo of the Week



Photo Credit: USFWS/Matt Boarman

A Message from Monomoy

Hatching season has begun! Our first piping plover and American oystercatcher chicks hatched on June 1st! Roseate tern nests continue to be identified within the colony, with a 3rd nest confirmed on June 7th. Our annual tern census went off without a hitch on June 6th and was completed on June 7th. We'd like to thank all the volunteers, both new and returning ones, for their help during tern census! Preliminary counts show over 7,500 nests, with more detailed numbers to come.

We'd also like to give a shout-out to our newest visitor services intern, Gabriela Fleury. Welcome to the Monomoy family!

2014 Field Season Update

This is a weekly synopsis of biological activities on South Monomoy, North Monomoy, and Minimoy Islands. Information within this report is subject to change. For up to date information, please contact Refuge Staff.

Bird Sightings

Double-crested cormorant
Great black-backed gull
Herring gull
Ring-billed gull
Glaucous gull
Iceland gull
Laughing gull
Bonaparte's gull
Willet
Greater yellowlegs
Lesser yellowlegs
Black-crowned night heron
American bittern
Barn swallow
White-rumped sandpiper
Least sandpiper
Short-billed dowitcher
Black tern
Spotted sandpiper
Willow flycatcher
Whimbrel

Black-bellied plover
Semipalmated plover
Semipalmated sandpiper
Sanderling
Dunlin
Snowy owl
Great egret
White-throated sparrow
Turkey vulture
Peregrine falcon
Tricolored heron
Red-winged blackbird
Common grackle
Ruddy turnstone
Wilson's plover
Red Knot
Yellow-crowned night heron
Seaside sparrow
Common eider
American black duck
Magnolia warbler

Bird Activity

Piping Plovers (PIPL)

The first PIPL nest to hatch this season occurred on June 1st, with a second nest hatching shortly after, around June 3rd. The nests hatched 4 chicks and 2 chicks, respectively. To date, a total of 48 PIPL pairs have been sighted on the Refuge. Eight new nests were located this week, for a total of 41 nests found on South Monomoy Island. On Minimoy Island, a second nest with 4 eggs was located on June 3rd. A PIPL nest with 4 eggs was also found at Broad Creek on North Monomoy Island on June 2nd. Five PIPL nests were lost this week, one nest to gull predation, one to COGR predation, one nest possibly abandoned due to COGR, and two nests lost to unknown causes. Non-lethal predator management techniques continue to be implemented to protect nests, with six predator exclosures erected on South Monomoy as of June 7th.

American Oystercatchers (AMOY)

The first AMOY nest to hatch this season occurred on SMNY on June 1st with 3 chicks. Within the week we had 3 more nests hatch, 1 on Minimoy and 2 on NMNY. After losing a chick to unknown causes on Mini, the refuge now has 5 AMOY chicks with more on the way. To date, there are a total of 4 active nests on South Monomoy Island, 7 active nests on North Monomoy Island, and 6 active nests on Minimoy Island. Two new pairs of AMOYs (1 on SMNY and 1 on Minimoy) were seen this week and efforts have been made to locate their nests or scrapes. Staff will continue to monitor nests and chicks, as well as pairs that have yet to nest.

Common Terns (COTE)

Tern census began on June 6th and ended June 7th, with over 7,500 nests counted in the main tern colony. More detailed information will be provided once it becomes available.

Trapping of banded COTEs also began this week to record adult band numbers, with 14 banded COTE trapped so far. Additionally, signs of GHOW tracks and BCNH predation of eggs have been documented within the colony. Staff will continue to monitor for signs of predation within the colony.

Roseate Terns (ROST)

A 2nd nest was identified on June 2nd within the north wash area of the colony. The nest had 2 eggs. A 3rd nest was located during tern census on June 7th. Day stints will continue 3 times per day, in hopes of locating additional nesting ROST pairs.

Black Skimmers (BLSK)

A pair of BLSK were seen loafing on the flats west of South Monomoy Island on June 7th.

Least Terns (LETE)

Nothing to report.

Laughing Gulls (LAGU)

Laughing gull nests were also censused on South Monomoy Island this week. More details will be provided in next week's update as staff compile census data.

Roseate habitat restoration Project

Though no work was conducted on planting plots this week, it is worth mentioning that two ROST nests found during the week were located within planting areas.

More information on this project will follow as necessary.

iPlover

Despite a few technical issues, Refuge staff began using the iPlover app this week, gathering nest site data for six nests and submitting the most nests to iPlover out of all participating iPlover sites!

Salt Marsh Integrity

Our water level loggers have been calibrated, and level logger wells are in the process of completion. Deployment of the barologger and waterloggers is planned for next week, along with construction of dip nets, throw traps, and ditch nets.

Current & Upcoming Events

PIPL Census Window	June 1-9
Tern Census	June 5-8
Horseshoe Crab Resighting	June 11-12, 15
Horseshoe Crab Tagging	June 13-14

JUNE 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5